

From: Sfikas, Ted
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/16/02 5:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Good day,

When I look at this case in an unbiased manner (which is difficult for me as I am in the IT industry), I see that this issue has nothing to do with technology and everything to do with the basic building blocks of our capitalistic society. Although I must admit that I am a Java-proponent, I am a capitalist first and foremost. The idea of forcing MicroSoft to NOT innovate and NOT expand its business in areas that make sense for itself and for the consumer is offending to the very nature of capitalism, but as we have all learned in Economics 101, one of the serious flaws of capitalism is the issue of monopolies and to a lesser extent, collaborating oligopolies.

Neither phenomena should be allowed to exist in the Information Technology sector as this industry has become the lifeblood of the US economy. It needs to be protected in such a way that healthy competition will encourage dozens of corporations to continue their marvellous innovations. At our current point in time, the IT industry is sick and weak from both recession and redundancies within the labor market and corporate inventories. It will become more and more difficult to build a healthy capitalistic environment as the next few crucial years go by and the country starts taking their applications to the next levels of international computing.

It's time to put a stop to this now, before irrevocable damage is done. Although MicroSoft should not be asked to surrender their intellectual property, they MUST decouple their middleware services from their operating system.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if at the beginning of the Transportation revolution(ie. way back when the car was invented on top of the engine), there was only a single Big Corporation that could make the highways and roads that vehicles could drive on? And then that Big Corporation acquired the few companies in the world that made automobile tires? What if a better vehicle with better tires wanted to drive on the same road? Can you imagine the Big Corporation spending its time, effort, and money inventing ways in which to make the better vehicle's tires deteriorate faster than its own while travelling on its roads? It's a perfect analogy and everyone knows it --- the point of it is to illustrate that MicroSoft itself will be better off if it is forced to decouple because it could concentrate on doing what it supposedly does best.

Thank you,

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